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# FOREST SERVICE NEWS

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## Forest Spraying Completed Successfully

Spraying of 67,000 acres in the Malheur and Ochoco National Forests of Oregon was completed successfully Wednesday, the U.S. Forest Service reported.

Target of the precision spraying by helicopter was the Douglas-fir tussock moth, a voracious tree defoliator that threatened the destruction of millions of dollars worth of timber.

Application of the spray, a DDT/fuel oil mixture, began June 10. After setbacks caused by unseasonally cold and rainy weather, the project was completed rapidly with the advent of warm, dry conditions.

The project was a success operationally, although it will be a few days before complete evaluation can be made on control of the insect, said Randall F. Perkins, project director.

In the meantime, a busy team of scientists is continuing its vital behind-the-scenes role. Working independently of the project, the group of scientists and technicians are carrying out the mission of watching for and evaluating any impact of the spray on other resources, including fish, water, soil, forage, and cattle.

(more)

Have there been any negative effects on other resources in the project area?

Dr. Glenn Crouch, Forest Service scientist who heads the surveillance team, says that so far the answer to this question appears to be "no".

"We have found virtually no evidence that harm is coming to anything other than the tussock moth larva," said Crouch.

Members of Dr. Crouch's team include representatives from the Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Forest & Range Experiment Station, Oregon State Game Commission, Oregon State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, and U.S. Agricultural Research Service.

The only incident during spray operations that could have been potentially harmful to resources was an accidental spillage of insecticide solution from a tank truck.

The tank cracked as the heavy rig was being driven up a gravel road toward a heliport on the Gold Hill spray unit north of Burns. Spillage occurred mostly on the roadbed, before the load was transferred to other tank trucks. Members of the surveillance team went into action immediately to determine whether any of the solution could have gotten into nearby streams and waterways.

There was evidence of some aquatic insect mortality in a ditch immediately adjacent to the spillage but none in live streams of the area.

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Limited Distribution